TIMES-VIRGINIAN
In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION Member

ESTABLISHED 1892

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ...... *Editors and Publishers*

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to the Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va. Subscription rate: $2 a year, payable in advance. Single copy 5c. National advertising representative: Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc., 920 Broadway, New York City. Advertising rates upon request.

EDITORIAL OPINION

NO END IN SIGHT

"Rural Revolution" is the title of an article by James N. Wallace, appearing in the Wall Street Journal. It tells of an Illinois farmer and how technilogical developments have brought a "dramatic increase" in man-hour production, and at the same time have sharply increased his harvest.

Increased use of ferilizers and improvements in plant breeding have been factors in this. So has modern farm machinery. In 1933, it took four or five men and 20 horses to farm this farmer's 420 acres. Now two men do it..and do it better. Mr. Wallace quotes the farmer as saying, "We used to cultivate corn with horses most of the summer. Now we get it done in three or four days. With a tractor, one man can cultivate 60 to 70 acres a day. "As the farm equipment makers introduce new and improved models, no end seems in sight to the cost-cutting, productivity-boosting benefits to farmers."

In 1919 there were 246,000 tractors on U. S. farms ..now there are more than 4,500,000. As recently as just before World War II there were 300,000 combines .. now there are 1,000,000. Big increases have been registered for all other varieties of farm machinery. That's one of the main reasons why a declining farm population has been able to provide more food and better food for a swiftly increasing total population.

CHECK THE DRIVER — NOT THE CAR

(The Baltimore Sun)

Senator William S. James, of Hartford County, has just introduced a bill to provide for a re-examination of all licensed drivers and to provide for continued re-examination every three years.

Session after session, the Legislature wastes a great deal of time debating the pros and cons of compulsory automobile inspection. To hear the proponents talk, you would think that if automobiles were inspected twice a year there would be a sharp drop in the automobile accident rate. Atcually, there would not be and could not be. The Travelers Insurance Company report in their latest annual study that, of the vehicles involved in fatal accidents, 96.7 per cent were in good condition. It wasn't the car. It was the driver.

The same sources also report that, of fatal acidents, 81.1 per cent took place in clear weather. It wasn't the weather. It was the driver.

The same sources also report that, of fatal accidents, 78.6 per cent took place when the roads were dry. It wasn't the condition of the road surface. It was the driver.

The same sources also report that, in the case of persons killed, 79.9 per cent met their death when cars were going straight. And of persons injured, 68.5 per cent were injured when the cars were going straight. It wasn't the layout of the highway. It was the driver.

Rational men must conclude therefore, that the importance of compulsory automobile inspection is overrated and that the importance of checking on the quality of the driving is underrated. The one best way of cutting down on accidents is to cut down on poor driving.

Senator James thinks that there ought to be a periodic check-up on driving. He is right. We aren't arguing about the details of his program. Whether a re-examination every three years is the right thing we do not know. To what extent a license - holder's driving record should be brought into the picture at the time of re-examination, we do not know. There will be many opinions on these and other questions. But one thing is sure: Senator James is headed in the right direction.

It's smart to pick your friends—but not to pieces.
—Toastmaster.

H-BOMB DEFENSE PLANS

(The New York Times)

The President has asked Congress for a special Civil Defense appropriation of $12,000,000 to be used to evolve "a complete package plan" for protecting ninety-two critical target cities against hydrogen-bomb attack. Civil Defense Administrator Peterson states that this money would permit an immediate beginning on defense studies for the populations of eight to ten major cities and "the City of New York with its enormous population concentration will be given the highest possible priority." In addition to the ninety-two cities the survey would also cover a number of other municipalities whose locations near important military establishments increases their danger of enemy attack. It is expected that plans for population evacuation, sheltering and feeding of refugees, will be developed by the proposed study.

The vital importance of appropriating promptly the emergency fund requested by the President is underlined by the fact that Civil Defense officials at present cannot guarantee more than fifteen minutes notice of approaching hostile aircraft. Even the completion of our Artic radar network within the next year or two may not advance the warning time much beyond two hours. Clearly, then, there will be no time for uncertainty or fumbling in civil defense action if the sirens should begin to sound in earnest. Thorough and effective plans for the maximum protection of our people must be ready for immediate implementation. Congress should provide the money for the formulation of such plans without delay.

WE LIVE TWO LIVES

(Selected)

There are 963 weekly newspapers in Canada, with a total circulation of almost 2,500,000. The January issue of a monthly letter issued by the Royal Bank of Canada was devoted entirely to them and their significance. It said: "Singly or taken together these weekly newspapers have a great influence on the thought and action of our people.

"Everybody, in a sense, lives two lives, one in a small and the other in a great circle. He belongs by birth or choice to various intimate groups, like his family, his neighborhood, and his cluster of friends. He is also a member of the whole society of Canada, and he is living within an interdependent system of nations. The weekly newspaper belongs to his intimacy."

The same thing is true of the thousands of United States weekly papers and small-city dailies. They are the running record of the community, and of the individuals, families, enterprises and institutions which created, forged and maintained it.

THAT FICKLE WOMAN AGAIN

(Henderson, Ky., Gleaner and Journal)

Doggone, we knew it would happen — And we promised ourselves that it would never happen again. But what are you going to do about that girl with the lovely eyes!

She comes along to give you the sly wink—and despite yourself you go trailing after the flirt. We were contented enough with the cold weather. Our overcoat did not seem to weigh too much. We were used to keeping the windows up in our car, and the heater turned on. Leafless branches did not seem too unfriendly a sight. Dead, grey grass was natural enough for this time of the year.

Then this dame spring came along—She blew a sweet smelling warm breath on our cheek—kind of close and familiar like. Then she dropped her pretty blue eyes and gave us a coy little smile. And then zing—things began to happen; The world began to spin!

It seemed to us that the crocus jumped from the ground. The jonquils, not content to wait their time rushed up to see. The birds began to twitter. The turtle dove came back. The robin sang in the mornings. The red bird spoke of love. The buds began to swell. The skies took to thunder and lightning, warm rains fell, the lawns took on a fresh look.

As for us, we planly got under the collar. We did not want an overcoat, anymore. We wanted the car window down. We wanted to say "Hi neighbor," and make friendly signs to everybody. All over this dame spring.

Then what? She comes back with that chilly stare. The wind and the rain turn cold. We climb back into our car and pull up the window. And the funny thing is, we swore all along that we would not fall again for this early spring stuff.

She's a huzzy. Boy—and how! (Wait a minute! Look at that sweet thing smiling again! Wonder if......)

PRODUCTION MIRACLE

(Winchester Star)

Production of automobiles and trucks, which has chalked up a gain of 37 per cent over last year since January 1, last week set a new all-time high output figure of 201,-339 units. Previous record of 196,-000 was chalked up during a week in June, 1950.

The phenomenal pace at which the automotive industry is operating, if continued, would result in total output of nearly 10 million cars and trucks this year. Totals of the various factories for this year shot past the 2 million mark last week.

Foreseeing increasing competition in the industry, executives of the large manufacturrers issued predictions late last year of total output this year ranging from 5 million to 6 million. The remarks of some gave the impression that they would be surprised if their predictions came true.

Thus it is obvious that top men in the industry are as amazed as the public by the manner in which cars have passed to buyers as production zoomed week by week. There can be little doubt that the economy of the nation is in excellent condition when the auto industry can produce and sell at such a rate. Prior to World War II, 100,-000 a week was considered a phenomenal output.

With more automobiles and trucks being spewed from the gigantic factories than ever before, no one will predict the manufacturing pattern for the remainder of the year. But there is much greater confidence in Detroit and other auto centers than was the case when the output was being stepped up earlier in the year. Then there were guarded comments on the size of the consumer market.

Of course, the factories and dealers are engaged in all-out sales efforts to supplement the pace set by the factories. And it is because these are bringing exceptionally good results that it is possible for the production race to continue unabated.

Contributing to the rosy picture —if not the main factor that has brought it about—is the circumstances that car designs have won wide public acceptance. When the public is offered what it wants it will find the means to buy.

SPRING CLEAN-UP CHORES LISTED BY COUNCIL

Don't give fire a place to start.

It's spring clean-up time and the Virginia Rural Safety Council urges farmers to stop fire through clean-up.

Spring is the best time to clear out all quick-burning rubbish and to correct fire hazards around the farm. And it pays off many times over in life and property saved from fire.

The Council lists these five chores as important to the safety of your farm.

Get rid of rubbish—old magazines, newspapers, clothing rags, mattresses, and discarded furniture. Check and doublecheck your attic, closets, basement, and other places of storage, particularly the barn.

Clean up rubbish and winter trash in the farm yard, and also the dried weeds, grass and leaves around the buildings and along fences.

Clean up your machine shop and the work bench. Dispose of shavings, oily rags, and old paints and oils.

Clean up all electrical equipment, and power machinery. Have a competent electrician make any needed repairs.

Clean up stoves, furnaces, and chimneys, in both farmhouse and outlying buildings.

DAILY GROOMING OF TRACTOR ADVISED

You don't need a currycomb, but the modern farm "work horse" — the tractor — needs a daily grooming just like old Dobbin used to need.

A stalled tractor is a bad way to begin the day. Wipe off ignition cables, coils, distributor, and spark plug insulators every day or two. Grease attracts dust. And damp dust is a moist wick causing voltage to leak or short-circuit. Then engines will miss, stall, or fail to start. For a good cleaning job, use a cloth moistened with solvent.

Record the number of hours you operate the tractor. Spark plugs should be cleaned, adjusted, and checked every 100 to 300 hours That is equal to 5,000 to 15,000 miles in a car. Dirty or fouled plugs waste fuel and power and cause frequent overheating.

Also, keep water in the battery up to the required level, and make sure holes in the vent plugs are not clogged.

Check the oil level daily, and lubricate such vital points as king pins and tie rod ends.

Service your air-cleaner daily. When operating in dusty conditions check the bottom cup for dirt twice a day. If it contains 1/8 to 1/4 inch of dirt, clean it and put in fresh oil.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year: payable in advance.

Appomattox is a growing town.

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4-H Execut[ive] Comm. Met

The Executive Commi[ttee of] Appomattox County 4-H C[oun]ty Council met in the offi[ce of] B. G. Anderson on Saturd[ay, March] 26. The following memb[ers were] present: Gene Carson, [president;] Shawn Mabley, secretary; [...]tin, vice-president; Patsy [...] treasurer; and Penny A[...] porter.

Goals for the county [were] adopted. These goals [were:]

1. Observe National 4-[H Week.]
a. National 4-H Week, [March] 13
b. National 4-H Sunday
c. National 4-H Achie[vement] Day, Nov. 12
2. Enter District Conte[st in at] least three events:
a. Dairy judging
b. Public speaking.
c. Tractor driving
3. Encourage members [to attend] state short course at VPI, [...] July 2, and enter the [...] contest:
a. Talent contest
b. Food preparation
c. Citizenship
d. Public speaking
e. Garden
f. Girls records.
4. Encourage members [...] Holliday Lake. County [...] members.
5. County Recreation D[ay]
6. Prepare exhibits a[nd] Electric Congress at Rich[mond] Sept. 1 and 2.
7. Prepare and distrib[ute] club yearbook.
8. Reorganize County H[...]

The Executive Commi[ttee] prepared an outline for [...] book, and specific plans [...] for its preparation.

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[H]ixburg

[H]ixburg, March 28.- Sunday [Sch]ool will begin at 10:00 A. M., [at] Hixburg Presbyterian Church [on] Sunday, April 3.

[Th]e Mathews Baptist Church [will] also start their Sunday School [on] that day.

[Rev.] Twyman Williams will fill his [regu]lar appointment at Hixburg [Pre]sbyterian Church at 11:00 A. M. [on] April 3. The Youth Choir will [sing] "Christ Arose." Also special [musi]c, "My Redeemer," will be [rend]ered by a trio, Rosalie Fore [...] Janice Ruth and Bobby Mc[...]ny.

[...] little daughter, Janet Ruth, [was] born to Pfc. John W. Hix and [...] at the Community Hospital in [...]nville on March 25. Pfc. Hix is [h]ome on a leave.

[Pv]t. Joseph T. Hix (Tom), who [has] been training at Fort Benning, [is e]n route to the Marshall Is[lands].

[P]vt. Jim Hix, Jr., chaplain's as[sista]nt, is in Munich, Germany.

[Ma]ddy Carson, of Lynchburg [Col]lege, spent last week in the [home] of Mr. Ernest Carson and [...] Carson in Portsmouth.

[...]m Carson has bought the [...]kard place. He will remodel the house before moving in.

[Mr]s. Colyer Parks, who has been [in Ly]nchburg for several weeks, has [retu]rned to her home with Mr. and [Mrs.] Rob Martin.

STATE READY TO START WITH ROAD WORK, AFTER WINTER DELAY

The State Highway Department said today that if weather permits, winter restrictions on about 175 highway projects will be lifted on April 1 and full construction operations will be resumed.

From November until April, highway construction is restricted to new locations or to short projects that will not seriously interfere with traffic. April 1 is the date for work to be stepped up on old projects and started on new jobs that have been waiting for good weather.

April is also the month for starting bitumious resurfacing of worn highways and remaking white lines. Some 4,000 miles of highways will be given new bituminous surfaces and fresh white lines will be painted on more than 7,000 miles.

Many of the projects in the state-wide construction program, totaling approximately $30,000,000 are nearing completion. Major jobs include the US 29-A Lynchburg Distribution route, the Rocky Mount to Boones Mill relocation of US 220, grading and bridge work for the US 11-A Lexington bypass, similar work on a relocation of US 60 west of Clifton Forge, reconstruction of US 19 west of Tazewell, and the final section of US 29 between Gretna and Lynchburg.

The current program also includes the extension of four-lane divided construction on US 29 north of Charlottesville, US 460 west of Bedford, US 58 between Danville and South Boston, US 60 west of Richmond, US 522 north of Front Royal, US 301 north of Emporia, US 33 north of Richmond, and US 29-211 between Warrenton and Washington. Other four - laning is under way on US 220 between Ridgeway and the North Carolina line, on the controlled access Norfolk-Virginia Beach highway, Route 165 at Norfolk and Route 7 at Alexandria.

Not included in the $30,000,000 program are the state's two largest projects—the $15,000,000 Greys Point-White Stone toll bridge across the Rappahannock River and the $58,000,000 Hampton Roads toll bridge and tunnel between Hampton and Norfolk. Work is under way on both projects which are scheduled to be finished during 1957.

JUNIOR TOBACCO SHOW

Tobacco show and sale contests will again be sponsored in 1955 for 4-H, FFA and NFA members.

G. R. Mathews, associate agronomist at VPI, says the purpose of the contest is to encourage young farmers to produce high-quality tobacco, and to improve handling, sorting, and display through following recommended practices in all phases of production and marketing.

Appomattox is a growing town.

Name Cast of Pamplin High School Senior Play

The Pamplin High School Senior Class is presenting a three-act farce, "Everybody's Crazy." It's full of ghosts, suspense, comedy, and thrills.

The play is based on the story of three college fellows who buy a summer hotel. Most any audience will laugh itself into the aisles watching the way in which the trio meet with Old Man Adversity and polish him off with much eclat. Business was terrible—so very bad it became necessary to give the inn a reputation as a haven for ghosts and the hiding place for an old miser's gold. Then came the paying guests, including an old maid who dabbles in spiritualism; a widow just a funny old bundle of nerves; a sleep-walking old Romeo, his hypochondriac wife; his daughter with gum-chewing propensities, and a farmer bachelor who is subject to nightmares. The cockney cook, afraid of spooks, is one of the funniest characters in any play, and rounding out a comedy team is Gladiola, the colored maid and Jasper, the bell hop. One of the boys impersonates a doctor and treats the guests for all sorts of fancied ailments. Another one assumes a female character role and plays fast and loose with many a palpitating masculine heart.

The cast is as follows:
Herb Stanley .... William Ranson
Elmer Sneed ...... Dan Seamster
Tommy Wilkins .... Jimmy Miller
William Bates - Henry Richardson
Ketura Katt .. Dorothy Richardson
Julie Mather ...... Rosalie Fore
Mrs. Spooner ...... Marie Tolley
Godfrey Van Gordon ...... Douglas Jamerson
Caroline .... Betty Orange
Celia .... Evelyn Ferguson
Adam Pottle .... Bobby McClenny
Libby Ann .... Margaret Orange
Gladiola .... Alice Shumaker
Jasper .... Kenneth Baldwin
Messenger .... Cecil William
The Ghost .... ???

(Editor's note: We are not informed as to the date of this play).

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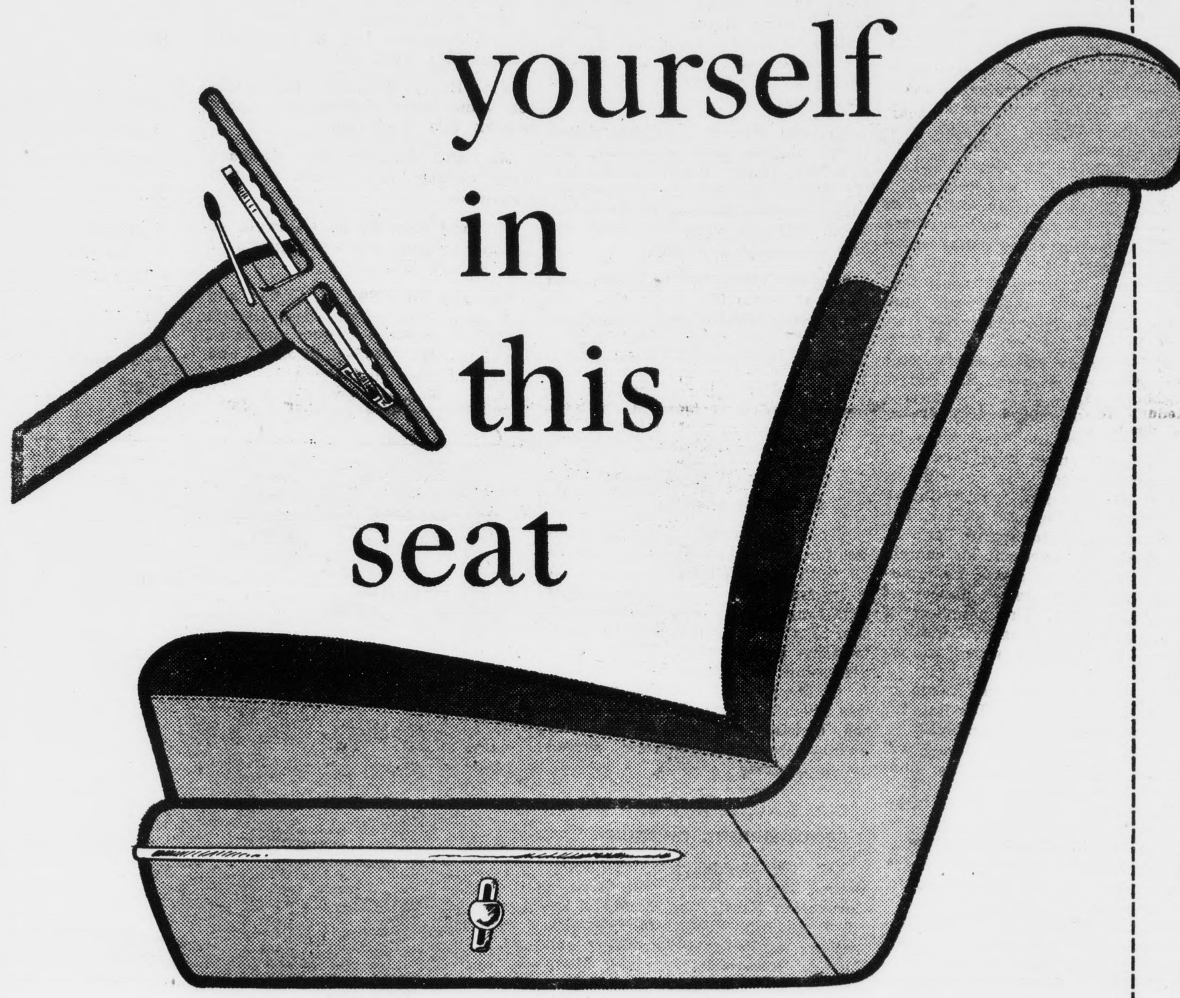

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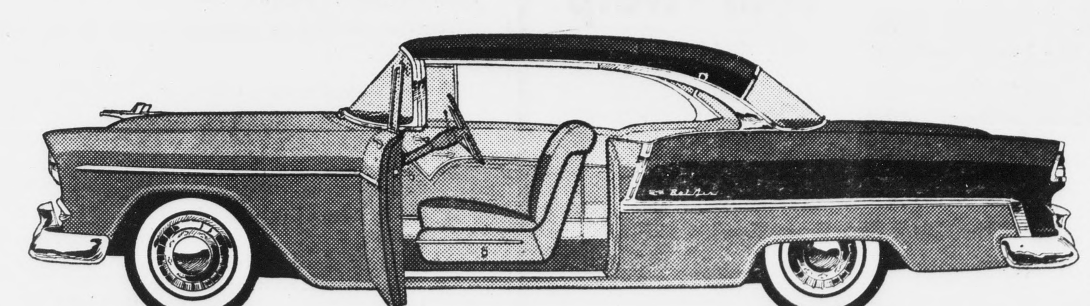

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